WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for exchanging a first sub-hierarchy of at least two sub-hierarchies of a hierarchical file system (HFS) with a second sub-hierarchy of the at least two sub-hierarchies, the HFS being accessible by at least one processor and having a root directory that is a parentless directory, the method comprising the steps of:

providing for the first sub-hierarchy to include a first root directory stored in a first location occupied by the root directory of the HFS and a first plurality of files configured to branch therefrom;

providing for the second sub-hierarchy to include a second root directory stored in a second location of the HFS that is not occupied by the root directory of the HFS and a second plurality of files configured to branch therefrom; and

providing for relocation of the second root directory to the first location.

2. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of providing for configuration of the second plurality of files to branch from the second root directory including while the second root directory is located in the first location.

3. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of providing for relocation of the first root directory to the second location.

4. The method according to claim 3, further comprising the step of providing for configuration of the first plurality of files to branch from the first root directory including while the first root directory is located in the second location.

5. The method according to claim 1, wherein the first and second sub-hierarchies are mutually exclusive.

6. The method according to claim 1, wherein the second location is not occupied by the first sub-hierarchy.

7. The method according to claim 1, wherein the providing for relocation step is performed during startup of an operating system executing on the at least one processor.

8. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of providing for storage of first and second operating systems executable on the at least one processor in the respective first and second sub-hierarchies.

9. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of providing for a replacement of the first sub-hierarchy with the second sub-hierarchy.

10. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of providing for an exchange of the first and second sub-hierarchies.

11. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of preventing unauthorized access by an operating system executed on the at least one processor to the HFS other than to the sub-hierarchy of the at least two sub-hierarchies having its root directory located in the first location before and after an exchange.

12. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of providing for configuration of the second plurality of files to branch from the first root directory and the first plurality of files to branch from the second root directory.

13. The method according to claim 1, wherein the providing for relocation step further includes the steps of:

providing for reconfiguration of one or more pointers pointing between the second root directory and a parent directory of the second root directory to point between the first root directory and the parent directory of the second root directory;

providing for configuration of the second root directory to conform with configuration of the root directory of the HFS; and

providing for an exchange of contents and associated data of the first root directory and the second root directory.

14. The method according to claim 1, wherein the HFS resides upon a storage medium selected from the group consisting of physical and virtual storage mediums.

15. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of providing a backup directory branching from the root directory of the HFS and not included in the at least two sub-hierarchies, from which branch respective sub-hierarchies of the at least two sub-hierarchies other than the sub-hierarchy of the at least two sub-hierarchies having its root directory located in the first location.

16. The method according to claim 10, further comprising the step of providing for another exchange of the first and second sub-hierarchies with the effect of returning the first and second sub-hierarchies to their original locations.

17. The method according to claim 10, wherein the providing for the exchange step is performed without copying contents of the first and second plurality of files.

18. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of providing at least one special file accessible via the root directory of the HFS and via one of the first and second root directories when stored in the first location.

19. The method according to claim 10, wherein the contents of the first sub-hierarchy include an upgrade of contents of the second sub-hierarchy.

20. The method according to claim 10, wherein the exchange is reversible.

21. The method according to claim 10, wherein the first and second sub-hierarchies provide different user environments.

22. The method according to claim 10, wherein contents of the second sub-hierarchy are a backup copy of contents of the first sub-hierarchy.

23. A computer system comprising:

a processor accessible hierarchical file system (HFS) having at least two sub-hierarchies including first and second sub-hierarchies and a parentless root directory, wherein the first sub-hierarchy includes a first root directory stored in a first location occupied by the root directory of the HFS and a plurality of files configured to branch therefrom, and the second sub-hierarchy includes a second root directory stored in a second location of the HFS different from the first location and a second plurality of files configured to branch therefrom; and

at least one device for moving the second root directory into the first location and configuring the second plurality of files to branch therefrom.

24. The computer system according to claim 23, wherein the second location is not occupied by the first sub-hierarchy.

25. The computer system according to claim 23, wherein the at least one device moves the first root directory into the second location and configures the first plurality of files to branch therefrom.

26. The computer system according to claim 23, wherein the first and second sub-hierarchies are mutually exclusive.

27. The computer system according to claim 23, wherein the HFS resides upon a storage medium selected from the group consisting of physical and virtual storage mediums.

28. The computer system according to claim 23, wherein the computing device executes a series of programmable instructions for moving the second root directory into the first location and configuring the second plurality of files to branch therefrom .

29. A computer system for exchanging a first sub-hierarchy of at least two sub-hierarchies of a hierarchical file system (HFS) with a second sub-hierarchy of the at least two sub-hierarchies, the HFS being accessible by at least one processor and having a root directory that is a parentless directory, the system comprising:

means for providing for the first sub-hierarchy to include a first root directory stored in a first location occupied by the root directory of the HFS and a first plurality of files configured to branch therefrom;

means providing for the second sub-hierarchy to include a second root directory stored in a second location of the HFS that is not occupied by the root directory of the HFS and a second plurality of files configured to branch therefrom; and

means for providing for relocation of the second root directory to the first location.

30. The computer system according to Claim 29, further comprising means for providing for configuration of the second plurality of files to branch from the second root directory including while the second root directory is located in the first location.

31. The computer system according to Claim 29, further comprising means for providing for relocation of the first root directory to the second location.

32. The computer system according to Claim 31, further comprising means for providing for configuration of the first plurality of files to branch from the first root directory including while the first root directory is located in the second location.

33. The computer system according to Claim 29, wherein the first and second sub-hierarchies are mutually exclusive.

34. The computer system according to Claim 29, wherein the second location is not occupied by the first sub-hierarchy.

35. The computer system according to Claim 29, wherein the means for providing for relocation performs the relocation during startup of an operating system executing on the at least one processor.

36. The computer system according to Claim 29, further comprising means for providing storage of first and second operating systems executable on the at least one processor in the respective first and second sub-hierarchies.

37. The computer system according to Claim 29, further comprising means for providing for a replacement of the first sub-hierarchy with the second sub-hierarchy.

38. The computer system according to Claim 29, further comprising means for providing for an exchange of the first and second sub-hierarchies.

39. The computer system according to Claim 29, further comprising means for preventing unauthorized access by an operating system executed on the at least one processor to the HFS other than to the sub-hierarchy of the at least two sub-hierarchies having its root directory located in the first location before and after an exchange.

40. The computer system according to Claim 29, further comprising means for providing for configuration of the second plurality of files to branch from the first root directory and the first plurality of files to branch from the second root directory.

41. The computer system according to Claim 29, wherein the means for providing for relocation further includes:

means for providing for reconfiguration of one or more pointers pointing between the second root directory and a parent directory of the second root directory to point between the first root directory and the parent directory of the second root directory;

means for providing for configuration of the second root directory to conform with configuration of the root directory of the HFS; and

means for providing for an exchange of contents and associated data of the first root directory and the second root directory.

42. The computer system according to Claim 29, wherein the HFS resides upon a storage medium selected from the group consisting of physical and virtual storage mediums.

43. The computer system according to Claim 29, further comprising means for providing a backup directory branching from the root directory of the HFS and not included in the at least two sub-hierarchies, from which branch respective sub-hierarchies of the at least two sub-hierarchies other than the sub-hierarchy of the at least two sub-hierarchies having its root directory located in the first location.

44. The computer system according to claim 38, further comprising means for providing for another exchange of the first and second sub-hierarchies with the effect of returning the first and second sub-hierarchies to their original locations.

45. The computer system according to claim 38, wherein the means for providing for the exchange is performed without copying contents of the first and second plurality of files.

46. The computer system according to claim 29, further comprising means for providing at least one special file accessible via the root directory of the HFS and by one of the first and second root directories when stored in the first location.

47. The computer system according to claim 38, wherein contents of the first sub-hierarchy include an upgrade of contents of the second sub-hierarchy.

48. The method according to claim 38, wherein the exchange is reversible.

49. The computer system according to claim 38, wherein the first and second sub-hierarchies provide different user environments.

50. The computer system according to claim 38, wherein contents of the second sub-hierarchy are a backup copy of contents of the first sub-hierarchy.

51. A computer readable medium storing a set of programmable instructions configured for execution by at least one processor for exchanging a first sub-hierarchy of at least two sub-hierarchies of a hierarchical file system (HFS) with a second sub-hierarchy of the at least two sub-hierarchies, the HFS being accessible by the at least one

processor and having a root directory that is a parentless directory, the programmable instructions comprising:

means for providing for the first sub-hierarchy to include a first root directory stored in a first location occupied by the root directory of the HFS and a first plurality of files configured to branch therefrom;

means for providing for the second sub-hierarchy to include a second root directory stored in a second location of the HFS that is not occupied by the root directory of the HFS and a second plurality of files configured to branch therefrom;

means for providing for configuration of the second plurality of files to branch from the first location; and

means for providing for relocation of the second root directory to the first location.

52. The computer readable medium in accordance with claim 51, further comprising:

means for providing for configuration of the first plurality of files to branch from the second location; and

means for relocation of the first root directory to the second location.

53. A computer data signal embodied in a transmission medium for execution by at least one processor for exchanging a first sub-hierarchy of at least two sub-hierarchies of a hierarchical file system (HFS) with a second sub-hierarchy of the at least

two sub-hierarchies, the HFS being accessible by the at least one processor and having a root directory that is a parentless directory, the data signal comprising:

a code segment including instructions for providing for the first sub-hierarchy to include a first root directory stored in a first location occupied by the root directory of the HFS and a first plurality of files configured to branch therefrom;

a code segment including instructions for providing for the second sub-hierarchy to include a second root directory stored in a second location of the HFS that is not occupied by the root directory of the HFS and a second plurality of files configured to branch therefrom;

a code segment including instructions for configuring the second plurality of files to branch from the first location; and

a code segment including instructions for relocating the second root directory to the first location.

54. The data signal according to Claim 53, further comprising:

a code segment including instructions for configuring the first plurality of files to branch from the second location; and

a code segment including instructions for relocating the first root directory to the second location.